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ART NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD

The Paris municipal authorities have offered prizes and medals for the best floral decorations for city balconies. Every Parisian apartment has its balcony, always more or less adorned with plants and vases, and much art is displayed in their arrangement, especially in the newer houses, where special provision is made for flowers. The few houses decorated last year by a society having for its object the beautifying of the city were so effective that the present prizes are offered. The jury that will pass upon the balconies includes the eminent painter Besnard and a number of other artists and architects.

¶ The Society of British Sculptors has formed a constitution, and elected Thomas Brock, R. A., its president. At a banquet given by Mr. Brock, at the Arts Club in London, the new president expressed his belief that there was a great future for the society, and urged the members to stimulate the public taste for sculpture, and gain for it that recognition as the highest expression of form to which it is justly entitled.

¶ A Paris paper announces the discovery in the sacristy of a small church in Nantes of fourteen pictures by Corot, illustrating the Stations of the Cross, also a "Flight into Egypt." They were executed about 1835. They are not as colorful as his later works, but now that anything from Corot's hand commands a fabulous price, dealers are tempting the church with offers of one hundred times the sum paid for these pictures seventy years since.

¶ In connection with the revival of medallic art in this country it is interesting to note a similar movement abroad. About two years ago a Danish-Belgian society was formed with the object of encouraging the creation and distribution of artistic medals, and now it is said that no great event transpires in either country without thus being commemorated. Very recently the widening and deepening of Brussels's canals was memorialized by a medal designed and modeled, under the auspices of this society, by M. Paul Dubois, the well-known sculptor.

¶ A fine Rembrandt has been given to the Louvre by M. Kaempfen. The picture was given to M. Kaempfen's father by a person who had once assisted him. When the son came into its possession he recognized it to be a Rembrandt, and made a journey to Switzerland to find the former owner. All his efforts, however, were unsuccessful, and refusing to allow his family to profit by the manifest ignorance of the former owner of the picture, M. Kaempfen presented it to the Louvre.

¶ Early this year there will be held in the Louvre, Paris, an exhibition of the priceless Parisian antiquities recently brought over by M. de Morgau from Suza, in Persia, where he has been conducting

very extensive excavations on behalf of the French government. A particularly suggestive feature of the showing will be the collection of over one hundred and fifty pictures by the well-known landscapist, Georges Bondoux, who was especially attached to the De Morgau mission for the purpose of fixing the present aspect of those wonderful and picturesque ruins that date from remote antiquity, and which are scattered over Persia, but which are rapidly disappearing under the hand of official vandalism and neglect. The most valuable find of the De Morgau excavating party is a bronze statue of a woman, a portrait doubtless of Queen Vapirazu, of exquisite workmanship, dating B. C. 1600. The style is said to be Donatelloesque.

❖ What is believed to be a genuine Romney, done in that artist's best period, has recently been sold at auction for thirty-four thousand dollars. The painting was part of the estate of a man who lived in a miner's cottage at Whitehaven, Cumberland, and who had a hobby for buying and cleaning pictures.



SALES AND SALES PRICES

The Exhibitors' Bureau of Sales reports total sales of American objects of art during the St. Louis Exposition as approximately \$80,000. Of these purchasers in the Middle West took the lion's share, seventy per cent; in the East twenty per cent; in the Far West, ten per cent. One hundred and twenty American paintings were sold for \$70,000; fourteen sculptures at \$2,000; prints and objects of applied art brought respectively \$900 and \$7,500. The painters who sold two or more works were: H. H. Breckenridge, J. G. Brown, Colin C. Cooper, Frank V. Du Mond, Charles Warren Eaton, Harry Fenn, Ben Foster, Charles P. Gruppe, J. Seymour Guy, Jonas Lie, Will H. Low, H. D. Murphy, J. C. Nicoll, Leonard Ochtman, E. W. Potthast, F. Hopkinson Smith, Henry B. Snell, R. W. Van Boskerck, Alexander T. Van Laer, George Wetherbee, Carleton Wiggins, and Charles Morris Young. The list shows a considerable catholicity of taste among purchasers. In sculpture Mrs. Bessie Potter Vonnoh's little statuettes made up quite half the short list. Print buyers preferred the etchings of J. C. Nicoll (6), and the wood-cuts of Henry Wolf (9). The total sales are larger than those of any previous exhibition in America.

❖ At the concluding sale in the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries of Persian art objects from the St. Louis Exposition two hundred numbers were sold for a total of \$13,182, making a grand total of \$22,996 for the sale. The highest figure of the sale, \$900, was paid by W. J. Lavery for an Ispahan rug. Another Ispahan sold for \$600. For a ewer from the Marquand collection \$540 was paid by an unknown